



Introduced Version

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Introduced by: Cochran*

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A RESOLUTION recognizing the Teen Court of Floyd County.

*Whereas, A joint effort by the Floyd Circuit Juvenile Court and Community Corrections created the Floyd County Teen Court;*

*Whereas, On March 7, 2001, 38 teenagers were sworn in as the first members of the newly created Floyd County Teen Court;*

*Whereas, The donated time of local attorneys, deputy prosecuting attorneys, and other court officials has enabled the teenage participates to be trained in the procedures of a juvenile court so that the newly created court will function properly;*

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*Whereas, Community members and businesses made the establishment of the court possible with their generous donations;*

*Whereas, Teen Court is designed as an alternative to juvenile court and uses teenagers as court participants rather than adults;*

*Whereas, In Teen Court, a jury of 12 teenagers decides the punishment handed down to the defendant. The court does not determine guilt or innocence, only the disposition of the case;*

*Whereas, There are numerous benefits to the young participants of a Teen Court, including assuming responsibility and accountability of their actions, involvement within the community, knowledge of the judicial system, and the development of a healthy attitude toward authority;*

*Whereas, The community that houses a teen court also benefits;*

*Whereas, Teen courts can help reduce teenage crime, the program is cost efficient, parents and guardians are involved in the process, and the case load of juvenile court judges is reduced; and*

*Whereas, Teen Court is an extremely valuable tool to educate the young people of Indiana in the workings of the judicial system and to let them see first hand what happens when you break the law: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives wishes to  
2           commend Floyd County for its innovative thinking and foresight in the  
3           establishment of the Floyd County Teen Court.

4           SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
5           Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Floyd Circuit  
6           Court Judge Terry Cody.

